

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 05756 291905Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 857

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGSWC PFOR, GE

SUBJECT: EMBASSY PROTEST CTNCERNING OFFENSIVE GDR STATEMENTS

REF: (A) STATE 113016; (B) STATE 113668

SUMMARY

I HAVE PROTESTED RECENT OFFENSIVE STATEMENTS BY THE GDR CONCERNING US ACTIONS IN INDOCHINA TO THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, LEAVING WITH HIM AN AIDE MEMOIRE. KROLIKOWSKI STATED THAT HE "REJECTED" THE PROTEST AS HAVING NO BASIS, AND COMMENTED ON THE POINTS AT ISSUE, BUT DID NOT HAND BACK THE AIDE MEMOIRE.

1. IN FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER'S ABSENCE FROM EAST BERLIN I CALLED ON ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER KROLIKOWSKI AT 4 PM ON MAY 29 TO DELIVER A PROTEST BOTH ORALLY

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PAGE 02 BERLIN 05756 291905Z

AND IN THE FORM OF AN AIDE-MEMOIRE CONCERNING RECENT STATEMENTS OFFENSIVE TO THE US MADE BY GDR SPOKESMEN

(REFTELS). OUR DISCUSSION LASTED TWENTY MINUTES
I WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DCM GROVE AND KROLIKOWSKI HAD WITH
HIM AN INTERPRETER AND SIEMENS OF THE NORTH AMERICAN SECTION.

2. THE TEXT OF THE AIDE-MEMOIRE WHICH I READ AND THEM
LEFT BEHIND FOLLOWS:

"IT HAS COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE UNITED STATES THAT IN RECENT DAYS A NUMBER OF STATE-
MENTS ABOUT INDOCHINA HAVE BEEN MADE BY SPOKESMEN
OF YOUR GOVERNMENT. I HAVE BEEN INSTUCTED TO PROTEST
AND REPUDIATE THE STATEMENTS IN QUESTION.

"FOR EXAMPLE ON MAY 7, 1975 DURING THE 58TH SESSION
OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS,
THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUR COUNTRY,
HERR BERNHARD NEUGEBAUER, IS REPORTED TO HAVE STATED:
'BY BECOMING A SPONSOR OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION
(E/L 1660), HIS DELEGATION HAD DEMONSTRATED ITS
SUPPORT FOR THE APPEAL TO HELP THE PEOPLES OF
INDOCHINA. THAT DEMAND WAS, ABOVE ALL, DIRECTED
TO THOSE WHO HAD BROUGHT UNTOLD MISERY TO THE
COUNTRIES CONCERNED AND CAUSED ENORMOUS DAMAGE
TO THEIR PEOPLES BY THEIR POLICY OF INTERVENTION
PURSUED FOR SEVERAL DECADES AND WHO WERE
ACCOMPLICES IN MASS MURDER, FORCED EVACUATION AND THE
ABDUCTION OF CHILDREN.'

"A FURTHER EXAMPLE. THE EAST BERLIN DOMESTIC RADIO
SERVICE BROADCAST A COMMENTARY BY HERR THOMAS SILBERSTEIN
ON APRIL 24, 1975 TO THE FOLLOWING EFFECT:

'PRESIDENT FORD DECLARED IN A US SPEECH TO NEW ORLEANS STUDENTS
LAST NIGHT THAT, AS HE PUT IT, 'AMERICAN PARTICILATION IN THE VIETNAM
WAR IS OVER.' ONE WOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE HIM. BUT AT THE MOMENT
MORE SIGNS ARE INDICATING THAT WASHINGTON WANTS TO END ITS CRIMINAL
AGGRESSIVE WAR WITH AT LEAST ONE LAST BIG PROPAGANDA MANEUVER,
SIMILAR TO THE DISGUSTING BABY LIFT ACTION--THE MASS DEPORTATION
OF INNOCENT CHILDREN, A NAUSEATING BUSINESS WITH SENTI-
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PAGE 03 BERLIN 05756 291905Z

MENTALITY AFTER THE US HAVING MURDERED, CRIPPLED OR ORPHANED ALMOST
ONE MILLION CHILDREN IN PRECEDING YEARS IN NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM.

' NEXT TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE WIREPULLERS OF WAR, SOME 200,000
SOUTH VIETNAM COLLABORATORS ARE TO BE EVACUATED, INCLUDING
SUCH MASS MURDERS AS THE EXECUTORS OF CIA ANNIHILATION PROGRAM
FIVE. CONGRESS ALLOCATED SOME 100 MILLION DOLLARS LAST
NIGHT FOR THIS PURPOSE; ALSO IT AUTHORIZED THE GOVERNMENT
TO USE TROOPS IN SOUTH VIETNAM, ALTHOUGH OPINION POLLS SAY THAT
AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE AMERICANS ARE PLAINLY AGAINST

SUCH ACTION.'

"THESE STATEMENTS ARE INACCURATE, UNTRUTHFUL AND, IN MY GOVERNMENT'S VIEW, EXTREMELY OFFENSIVE. THEY REFLECT LITTLE UNDERSTANDING ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC EITHER OF THE SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, OR OF THE TRADITIONS AND ACTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

"SINCE ITS INDEPENDENCE IN 1776, THE UNITED STATES HAS, UNIQUELY IN THE WORLD, RECEIVED AND WELCOMED PERSONS FROM COUNTRIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. SOME CAME TO THE UNITED STATES SEEKING GREATER FREEDOM AND OPPORTUNITY, WHICH THEY FOUND. THOUSANDS FLED TO MY COUNTRY TO ESCAPE HUNGER, OPPRESSION AND CRUELTY. HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS CAME FROM GERMANY AND ARE OUTSTANDING AND LOYAL CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES.

"SURELY YOUR GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE SHOULD BE ABLE TO RECALL ONE OF THE MOST RECENT EXAMPLES OF THIS TRADITION OF THE UNITED STATES. SHORTLY AFTER THE CLOSE OF WORLD WAR II, DURING WHICH THE UNITED STATES PLAYED A MAJOR PART IN LIBERATING OVER ONE-HALF OF GERMANY, INCLUDING MUCH OF THE AREA OF YOUR COUNTRY, THE UNITED STATES RECEIVED AND WELCOMED HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DISPLACED PERSONS AND REFUGEES. THOUSANDS HAD BEEN THE VICTIMS OF THE CRUELTY AND OPPRESSION OF THE NAZI REGIME OF GERMANY.

"THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AS IT SEEKS TO ESTABLISH NORMAL AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONS WITH THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF DETENTE, WILL CONTINUE TO OBSERVE CLOSELY STATEMENTS DIRECTED BY YOUR GOVERNMENT, SUCH AS THOSE I HAVE DRAWN SPECIFICALLY TO YOUR ATTENTION TODAY."

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PAGE 04 BERLIN 05756 291905Z

3. KROLIKOWSKY RESPONDED IN CLAM AND MEASURED TONES. HE WAS FRIENDLY THROUGHOUT.

4. KROLIKOWSKY SAID THE U.S. PROTEST ADDRESSED TWO POINTS. THE FIRST DEALT WITH THE REMARKS OF A GDR REPRESENTATIVE IN ECOSOC. IT WAS FULLY JUSTIFIABLE FOR HIM TO MAKE A STATEMENT IN THAT FORUM, ESPECIALLY AS IT CORRESPONDED WITH THE MAJORITY VIEW. WITH REGARD TO THE SECOND POINT, THE GDR, JUST AS THE UNITED STATES, HAS PRESS FREEDOM AND THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR SOMETHING SAID BY A CORRESPONDENT. KROLIKOWSKY ADDED THAT HE PERSONALLY HAD HEARD SIMILAR REMARKS FROM U.S. SENATORS AND OTHER DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES, ALTHOUGH HE VOLUNTEERED THAT HE COULD NOT RECALL WHO THE INDIVIDUALS WERE OR WHAT STATEMENTS THEY HAD MADE. KROLIKOWSKY THEN SAID THAT HE REJECTED THE STATEMENTS CONTAINED IN THE AIDE MEMOIRE.

5. KROLIKOWSKY SAID IT WAS HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT BY ALL APPEARANCES THE GDR COMMENTATOR RELIED ON INFORMATION THAT HAD ALSO BEEN USED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES. EMOTIONS RAN HIGH IN THOSE DAYS. WE ARE ALL GLAD THAT THE VIETNAM WAR IS NOW OVER.

6. HE SAID THE GDR HAS STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM BECAUSE IT KNOWS WHAT STRUGGLING FOR FREEDOM MEANS. IT HAD TAKEN 25 YEARS FOR THE GDR ITSELF TO BE FULLY RECOGNIZED BY ALL STATES. THE GDR ALSO KNOWS WHAT SUFFERING IS. IT HAD SUFFERED UNDER GERMAN FASCISM. KROLIKOWSKY SAID HE REALIZED THAT AMERICAN SOLDIERS, TOO, HAD LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST FASCISM. THE GDR STANDS FOR PEACE; THAT IS ITS GUIDE LINE.

7. THEREFORE, KROLIKOWSKY SAW NO REASON FOR A PROTEST, AND BEYOND THAT NO REASON TO ACCEPT A PROTEST. THE GDR IS AWARE OF THE EVENTS IN AMERICAN HISTORY THAT ARE OUTSTANDING. IT HAS A POINT OF VIEW ON MANY QUESTIONS THAT IS NOT NECESSARILY THE SAME AS THE AMERICAN VIEWPOINT. THE GDR FAVORS GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. IT WILL DO ALL IT CAN, AND GLADLY, TO MAKE THESE RELATIONS NORMAL AND AS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL AS POSSIBLE.
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PAGE 05 BERLIN 05756 291905Z

8. KROLIKOWSKY SAID THAT I WILL HAVE NOTICED THAT GDR REPRESENTATIVES RECEIVED ME WITH TACT AND RESPECT. IF WE CAN ESTABLISH RELATIONS ON SUCH A BASIS, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR BOTH COUNTRIES TO WORK TOGETHER IN A BUSINESSLIKE WAY. HISTORY WILL JUDGE THE QUESTIONS SET FORTH IN THE AIDE MEMOIRE. IN PART, HISTORY'S JUDGMENT IS CLEAR ALREADY. THERE WAS NO NEED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER, HE SAID. HE PROMISED TO INFORM HIS GOVERNMENT, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO ACCEPT THE PROTEST. (HE DID NOT HAND BACK THE AIDE MEMOIRE, HOWEVER.)

9. I RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT I HAD LISTENED CAREFULLY TO HIS REMARKS, AND I THANKED HIM FOR HIS COMMENTS. I WOULD TRANSMIT WHAT HE HAD SAID TO THE DEPARTMENT. I ADDED THAT FROM MY OWN EXPERIENCES, INCLUDING WORLD WAR II SERVICE IN HIS COUNTRY, I COULD RESPOND TO WHAT HE HAD SAID, BUT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO DO SO. I CONCLUDED BY UNDERLINING THE SERIOUS NATURE OF THIS PROTEST AS VIEWED BY MY GOVERNMENT AND PRESENTED FOR THE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF HIS GOVERNMENT.COOPER

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